



Project Update:

The Fire Program Analysis (FPA) Team has been developing the FPA system on a compressed development schedule since July 2007. Simultaneously, seven FPU prototypes have been testing internal releases of the FPA system and have offered advice on enhancements as well as identifying corrections needed in the system.

Since January, there have been delays in delivery of software. These delays have not allowed adequate time for the project to test the full functionality of the system prior to the June 30 release. Consequently, the nationwide release of the full system is being done in phases to allow “early-adopters” and prototype FPUs to “pressure test” the system for six weeks while all other FPUs begin data entry.

After June 30 the part of the system that the FPUs will use to develop investment alternatives will be available. All FPUs are encouraged to complete all data entry in anticipation of Release 2.01 on August 15, 2008. Tasks that can be completed after June 30 include:

- Setting up the FPU Team and system access
- Editing initial response resource data imported from FPA-PM
- Entering dispatch logic
- Defining attributes associated with Fire Workload Areas (FWAs)
- Forming Initial Response Organizations for the Preparedness Option
- Developing Fuel Treatment Options

This work will not be affected by the corrections and stabilization noted above in the modeling portion of the system. Waiting until August 15th (Release 2.01) to run the modeling portion of the system will reduce the need to rerun analyses as system improvements and additional functionality are incorporated in the August 15 release. (See: table 1 on page 2)

Early-Adopters

The project will invite a group of “early-adopter” FPUs to begin using FPA shortly after the June 30 release. The concept of early-adopters is an internationally accepted software release strategy. Early-adopters will be identified to improve performance before the broader community uses the system. Early-adopters feedback will enhance the Project’s ability to improve system performance before it is used by the broader community; it also reduces the need for modifications to the system during the first year. We know that several FPUs are looking forward to exploring the new FPA system and the early-adopter concept will provide this opportunity.

FPA project staff will work with the Geographic Area Leads to identify and encourage early use of the system. Characteristics of early-adopter FPUs who will test the FPA system function and behavior between June 30 and August 15 include:

- FPUs in the geographic areas without an FPA prototype
- Staff willing and available to interact with FPA to assess the FPA system

- A range of workload and resource complexities (e.g. very few fires and resources to high number of annual ignitions with many resources, FPU's that contract for initial response)
- Represent one of each of the enterprise fuel model data source used by FPA
- FPU's where LANDFIRE rapid refresh will be complete by May 22, 2008
- FPU's with accurate large fire perimeters for the last 10-20 years (to validate large fire burn probabilities)
- FPU's with line officer support and an understanding of FPA's expectations of early-adopter FPU's
- FPU's with nonfederal participation that includes fire protection responsibilities and initial response resources

FPA Early-adopter Benefits:

- Close partnerships with FPA staff as the FPU's design their investment alternatives and prepare their data prior to August 15
- More time to complete FPA analyses
- Identify additional reports and displays specific to FPU's

FPA Project Benefits:

- The FPA Project user helpdesk will gain valuable experience and expand their online knowledge base for use in supporting calls from the larger user community
- Tuning the system performance before the majority of the FPU's are ready to develop investment alternatives and run the modules

Table 1: FPA Releases

	FPA Releases		
	Release 2.0 June 30, 2008	Release 2.01 August 15, 2008	Release 2.02 September 15, 2008
Expected Stakeholders	7 Prototypes + Early Adopter FPU's	All FPU's	National Planners & Budget Leads
Functionality Details	Core Functionality: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data entry for FPU resources, dispatch locations, dispatch logic, costs, etc. • Building Options & Investment Alternatives • Run IRS • Run Large Fire • Calculate performance metrics • Basic FPU-level reports and graphics for performance metrics and costs for each investment alternative 	Added Functionality: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention analysis • Automatic upload of RAMS data • Enhanced IRS • Additional reports for FPU's • System defect fixes & tuned performance 	Added Functionality: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Tradeoff Analysis decision support toolset • National Tradeoff Analysis Reports • System defect fixes & tuned performance

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